

**Amendments to the Claims:**

**Listing of Claims:**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Claim 1. (Presently amended) An adhesive bandage comprising a wound contacting pad, said wound contacting pad comprising:

an absorbent nonwoven fabric comprising from about 5% to about 30% by weight of absorbent fibers and from about 70% to about 95% by weight of synthetic non-absorbent fibers, said absorbent and synthetic non-absorbent fibers selected from the group consisting of rayon, cotton, wood pulp, and said synthetic non-absorbent fibers selected from the group consisting of polyolefins, polyamides and polyesters, said nonwoven fabric having a density from about 0.01 g/cc to 0.05 g/cc and a basis weight of from about 30 gsm to about 150 gsm, said nonwoven fabric having a first major surface and a second major surface; and

an apertured film secured to at least one major surface of the nonwoven fabric.

Claim 2. (Cancelled)

Claim 3. (Previously presented) The adhesive bandage of claim 1 wherein the fibers comprising the nonwoven fabric are bicomponent fibers.

Claim 4. (Cancelled)

Claim 5. (Previously presented) The adhesive bandage of claim 1 wherein the apertured film comprises a polymeric material selected from the group consisting of ethylene methyl acrylate, polyethylene, metallocene catalyzed polyethylene, polypropylene, and copolymers thereof, and ethylene vinyl acetate copolymers

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Claim 6. (Cancelled)

Claim 7. (Previously presented) The adhesive bandage of claim 1 wherein the open area of the apertured film ranges from about 5 percent to about 30 percent of the total area of the apertured film.

Claim 8. (Previously presented) The adhesive bandage of claim 14 wherein the open area of the apertured film ranges from about 5 percent to about 30 percent of the total area of the apertured film.

Claim 9. (Previously presented) The adhesive bandage of claim 1 further comprising a top layer secured to the second major surface of said nonwoven fabric.

Claim 10. (Previously presented) The adhesive bandage of claim 9 wherein said top layer material is a microporous film.

Claims 11-20. (Cancelled)